



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair **Damaris Boone** (Board Member – RCMA); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Danna Breeden** (Collier County Health Department); **Susan Driscoll** (Family Resources Ctr. at FGCU); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders - Zoom); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA - Zoom); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning - Zoom); **Kelly Roy** (Board Member - Florida SouthWestern State College) via Zoom; **Heather Singleton** (Director of Professional Development, CCCR); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Yara Duchesne** (Board Member – RCMA - Zoom)

Staff Members Present: **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Early Childhood Coordinator); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Director of Assessment and Screening); **Kimberly Usa** (Chief Operating Officer); **Leona Adkins**, Chief Quality Officer), **Kristi Biffar** (Director of Early Childhood)

Committee Members Absent: **Amy Adame** (A Step Up Child Dev. Center – Immokalee); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Alyssa Bryant** (Open Doors Preschool); **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center) ; **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center); **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Sharra Leonard** (Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership); **Suzanne March** (Collier Child Care Resources); **Yalitza Miraflores** (FDLRS); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree) **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order by Damaris Boone at 9:01 am. Introductions were made, including those on Zoom, our web-based meeting space. 	

<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 1, 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes presented for the November 1, 2019 meeting. 	<p>Motion to accept minutes made by Renata Engles; and seconded by Jamie Slack. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of www.elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>Health Report – Danna Breeden Collier County Health Department and ELC Nurse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Breeden reported cases of Influenza A • Spring Fling Conference is scheduled for May 2, 2020 at Port Labelle Conference center. Free training, includes meals and CEUs for attendees. Registration to follow 	
<p>ELC Report - Susan Block</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Block thanked Ms. Breeden for support provided by the Department of Health. • Ms. Thompson submitted the IACET renewal paperwork. The ELC is awaiting its visit to confirm our ability to continue issuing CEUs. • Ms. Block announced organizational changes at the ELC; Ms. Thompson will be Director of Professional Development and Ms. Adkins will be the Chief Quality Officer. Ms. Gogia and Ms. Biffar will be retitled as Directors in their respective areas. Ms. Carpenter will be adding data reporting duties to her work as a Coordinator for Quality. • The 2020 legislative session begins in January 2020. Ms. Block highlighted HB 1013, the early learning bill that has been introduced by Representative Grall. This bill would have a major impact on OEL, the Coalitions and VPK providers, in particular. She encouraged providers to follow the progress of the bill during the legislative session. 	

<p>Discussion of Trauma class for directors – add to scholarship options?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee considered the possibility of allowing the Trauma Endorsement course to be considered in the ELC Scholarship opportunities. Currently, the language of the policy includes certificates and degrees. • Member of the committee feel that the credential is relevant and it may be something to consider. 	<p>The issue tabled for consideration when more information regarding the DCF Badge offerings is available.</p>
<p>Program Assessment Status: Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coalition is currently working with Teachstone to contract for CLASS assessments. • A few providers will be exempt from the assessments due to either their low enrollment of SR children or their high score on CLASS this past year. • Previously exempt providers who meet the SR guidelines for serving children are being assessed by staff. • A new rule, under consideration, may increase the minimum threshold for contracting and increase the number of providers on quality improvement plans to between 20-30 programs 	
<p>Literacy Buddy updates - projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronwyn Gogia reported 1334 children are receiving books from 1300 adults. Humana hosted a virtual book drive where over 350 books were donated to the ELC for distribution to children. • Danna Breeden noted that books on drowning could be purchased at a cost of \$1. If the ELC could get funding to defray the costs, they could be distributed to providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ will see if the _____ foundation will underwrite the cost to purchase these books.
<p>Teaching Strategies Update: Bronwyn Gogia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child assessment differential payment is 5%. To be paid this amount, 75% of staff must be certified as reliable in either Teaching Strategies, Galileo or COR. • Currently, 59 SR providers have met the reliability criteria for payment through Teaching Strategies. They will also have to submit their assessments timely three times during the year. • Some providers have had issues submitting their certificates of reliability in the Quality Performance System. If that is the case, they 	

	<p>can submit them to Jill Zaborowski or Bronwyn Gogia who will certify that they completed on time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future assessments are due January 31 and April 30th. 	
<p>SR, VPK, Waitlist numbers and Enrollment status - Kim Usa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, only at risk children are being enrolled – no children are being pulled off the waitlist which is at 1400. • VPK enrollment was 1800 in the summer and about 5400 as of August. This is expected to increase with those programs that begin in October. • SR enrollment is about 5200 per month. • The Coalition is hoping for an easier and better way to track this data in the new updates to the portal system. 	
<p>QRIS Workgroup Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality improvement is important to all. There was discussion of creating model sites. • QRIS continues to be on a pause until at least the end of the year since legislative mandates have created duplication of services 	
<p>Other Discussion/Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danna Breeden asked about sending out medical health information. Susan Block asked her to send it to us for distribution. • Angela Anderson reported that FGCU and CCSWFL are sponsoring Lisa Murphy, the “Ooey Gooey Lady” on 3/21/2020. CEUs will be offered. 	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am. 	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 28, 2020 	

All meetings will be held at 2675 Winkler Avenue Suite 300, Fort Myers, FL 33901 unless otherwise announced.